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MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
VOLUME 16 NUMBER 2 SEPTEMBER, 1971

A First In National Transportation Planning....

Montana's portion of the National Transportation study is slated for completion by Dec. 1. This study, which is the first attempt at transportation planning on a national level, will be used as a basis for legislative and expenditure recommendations to the President and Congress.

Byron Roberts, Department of Planning and Economic Development Project Coordinator for the study, said the Dec. 1 deadline has been set so findings can be analyzed and study results forwarded to Congress early in 1972 by the Department of Transportation (DOT).

Roberts, who has directed the study for five months, explained the Department of Planning and Economic Development has been designated by Governor Anderson to coordinate the project. Other agencies involved include the State Highway Department, State Aeronautics Commission and Urban planning groups within Billings, Great Falls, and Missoula. These communities—all projected to have over 50,000 persons by 1990—have been responsible in this study for developing the master plans for all future transportation projects within their metropolitan areas.

The Department of Planning and Economic Development received about $15,000 from the Department of Transportation to direct the study, and the Highway Department had additional funding from the Federal Highway Administration to complete its portion.

Much of the Department of Planning and Economic Development grant was used to aid the cities in their activities since they had received no funding, according to Roberts.

"The study is basically concerned with the development of transportation needs estimates and capital improvement programs," said Roberts, "and is an assessment of transportation needs and projected expenditures up to 1990 which will develop a more complete picture of the nation's transportation system."

He said that the Department of Transportation asked the state to consider three hypothetical funding alternatives and to establish project funding schedules based on these alternatives.

These alternatives are: Low level of funding, under which the state would only receive, using present matching ratios, 50 percent of the federal funds authorized today.

High level of funding or 100 percent of projected funding levels authorized under existing legislation.

High level of funding as in the second alternative except that the matching ratio for all programs is 2/3 federal, 1/3 state or local and legislative constraints have been removed to permit:

1. Transfer of funds between programs. (Highway funds, for example, can be spent to build airports.)
2. Funding of projects (like construction of off-street parking facilities) that are not currently eligible under any program. However, funding of operation costs or subsidies and maintainance costs are not eligible items.

Roberts said because of the the low level of study funding and the time limits involved in completing the study, it was virtually impossible to gather raw or primary data, and most information had to be secured from HUD 701 comprehensive plans, mass transit feasibility studies, interim airport plans, and community transportation plans.

However, he added that indications are the study will be performed in the future on a biennial basis, and it is hoped that enough will be available to accomplish a meaningful nationwide transportation plan.

Reorganization-Planning New Services

Perry F. Roys, Executive Director of the Department of Planning and Economic Development, has announced the resignation of Lyle E. Balderson, Director of the Community Development Division. Mr. Balderson has accepted the position of Planning Director for the Columbia Region Association of Governments, headquartered in Portland, Oregon. Mr. Roys explained that the resignation was accepted with regret and noted that the Division, under Balderson's guidance, had made notable strides toward attainment of goals of state planning and assistance to local government.

Harold M. "Hal" Price has been appointed Director of the Division, and Charles A. Bentley has been promoted to Assistant Director. Bentley formerly held the post of Senior Planner for the planning component of the Division's work, and Price was Senior Planner for community development. Price explained that his Division will "follow the general pattern established during the past two years."

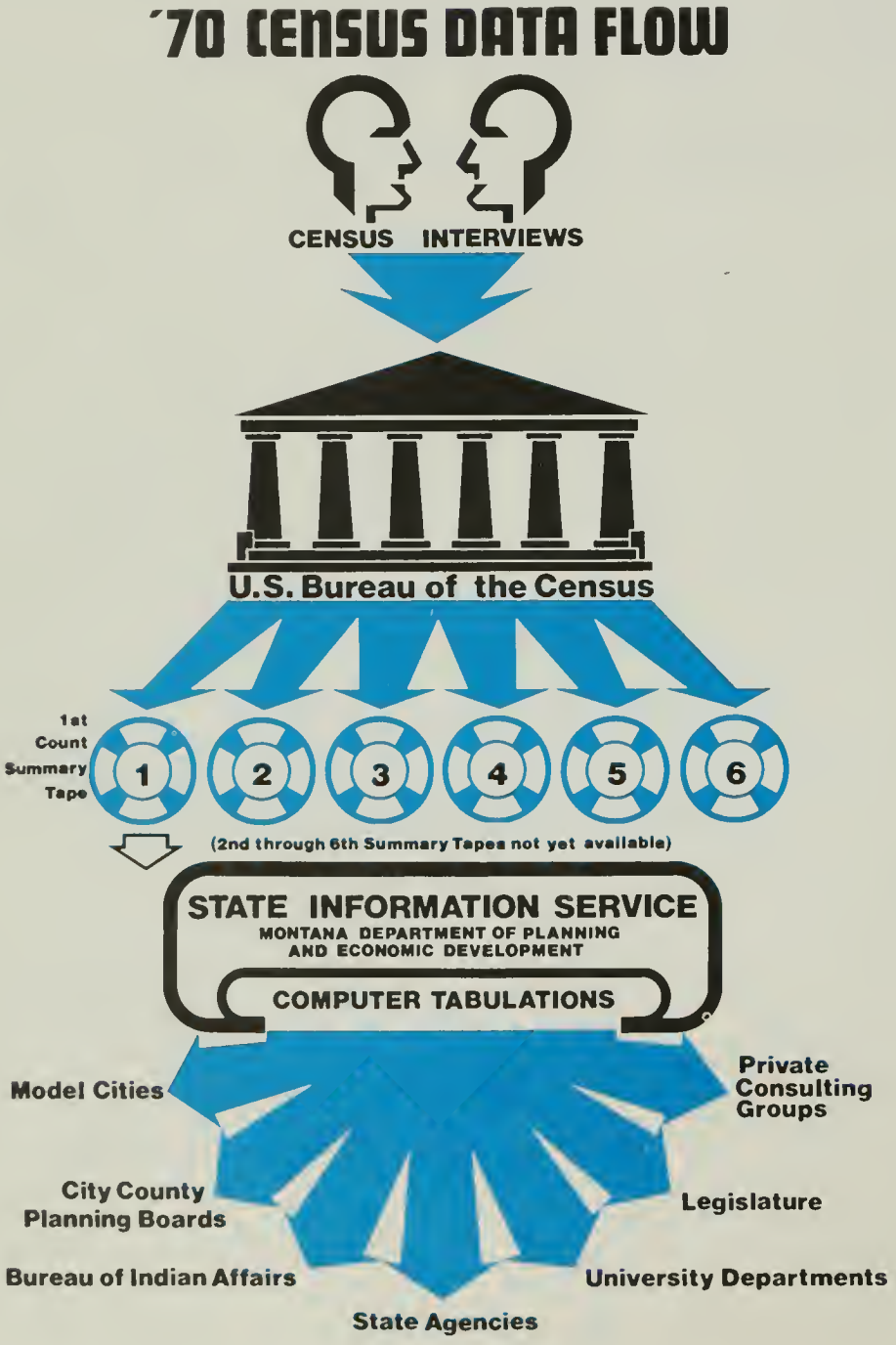
"However," Price said, "it appears that increased activity in local planning will place additional demands on the Division for consultation and technical assistance. The recent passage of House Bill 79 has generated a significant and welcome resurgence of interest in local planning, but it is at present severely taxing our staff in regard to requests for assistance.

"It is our intent to respond to the needs of local government by assisting with their local planning and community development programs. Although a large share of the Division's effort is committed to matters of statewide planning, we are cognizant of the fact that local governments, or combinations of local governments, must ultimately provide a key element for effective plan implementation."

'70 Census Data Available....

The Information Division of the Department of Planning and Economic Development is prepared to provide to governmental agencies, private firms and individuals a diversity of 1970 census data reports, as well as special tabulations never before available from the state

R. Thomas Dundas, division director, has announced that the first two printed reports from the Bureau of Census are now available from the Government Printing Office and the Department can provide a variety of computer generated information from the first count summary census tape.



Printed reports now available are Number of Inhabitants and General Housing Characteristics. Both documents have data available at the state, county, CCD and place level.

Forthcoming in the next six months, according to Dundas will be General Population Characteristics, General Social and Economic Characteristics and Detailed Characteristics under the census of population

Printed materials on metropolitan housing characteristics and block statistics will be made available to Great Falls and Billings, and block characteristics to the "contract" cities of Helena and Butte.

Dundas explained that city data is also available on census tapes, and his division may be supplying some information to the cities before the printed materials are available.

He said the Department acquires the census tapes and processes them through the State Central Data Processing Facility, using a file management system purchased by the Department to provide the reports. (See accompanying chart explaining processing procedures).

Montana was actually the first state in the nation to receive its first count tape in October, 1970, and to begin providing tabulations from it, according to Dundas, and since that time, has provided "hundreds of tabulations to many organizations," as is indicated on the diagram.

"Many of the requests have been for standard tabulations," Dundas said, "but many have been designed in a particular report and geographical format according to specific request."

He explained that statewide tabulations are provided free of charge, but more detailed or specialized requests carry a fee commensurate with the costs directly associated with computer use with no charge for programming.

Presently, the Information Division can provide tabulations from the first count tape which includes about 400 characteristics on population and housing down to the enumeration district level, or an area averaging 250 houses or 800 persons. This data comes from the Bureau of Census questionnaires answered by all households.

Also forthcoming will be the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 6th count tapes. Dundas said the 5th count tape, which contains zip code data primarily related to marketing-

oriented, private corporations, will not be purchased unless he receives specific requests for such data.

The 2nd count tape has 3,500 characteristics from the "100 percent questionnaire." These include information on age distribution, housing counts, value of housing, and contract rent values, with some data available with breakdown of urban and rural nonfarm and rural farm population.

The 3rd count tape has complete count block-level data for urban areas which contracted for block statistics.

The 4th count tape offers up to 30,000 characteristics at a county level and 13,000 at the tract level. This is 20 percent sample data, including family income, country of origin, employment and occupational information.

The 6th count tape offers 260,000 characteristics of information at the SMSA, county and state level. This tape allows for cross tabulations, providing characteristics of poverty-level and minority groups.

Indian Advisory Service

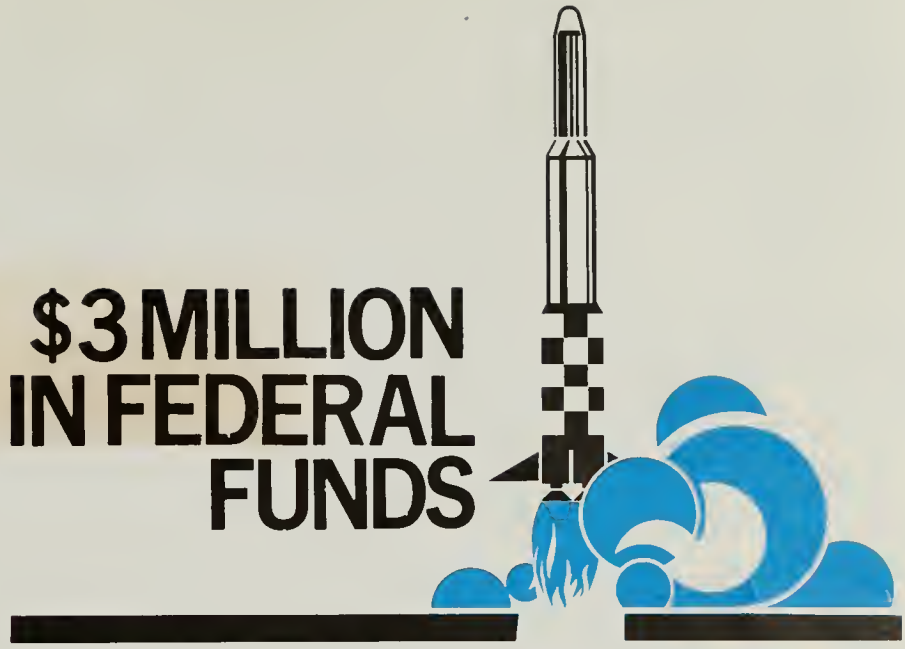
The Indian Advisory Services of the Department of Planning and Economic Development are actively involved with both the on and off-reservation programs that are being developed in Montana.

These services are designed to provide coordination and technical assistance to planning programs on the Blackfeet, Crow, Rocky Boy and Fort Belknap Indian Reservations. Because of the limited funds available two additional programs for the Flathead and North Cheyenne were rescheduled for February 22, 1973.

As a further coordinating measure, Merle Lucas, Indian Advisor, has attended the meetings of the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board to provide the tribal leaders any planning assistance they might require and to explain the Department's programs.

Lucas has also become active in the off-reservation groups being formed in the State and serves as a board member both on the Helena Indian Alliance and the newly-formed Montana United Indian Association.

The latter is a statewide, non-profit corporation consisting of six urban Indian organizations within Montana located at Billings, Butte, Great Falls, Havre, Helena and Missoula.



$3 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDS

Efforts of a state agency ABM coordinating committee, with the Department of Planning and Economic Development serving as the central coordinating agency, have secured more than $3 million in federal funds to ease the impact on the Shelby-Conrad Anti Ballistic Missile construction area.

Lloyd Meyer, Department of Planning and Economic Development ABM coordinator, stated the total grants received as of August 1 by the communities from Department of Defense and other Federal agency sources has totaled $3,055,640, with the largest amount of $1.1 million going to the city of Conrad for Water-Sewer extensions.

Other requests funded from the more than $12 1/2 million in requests being channeled through the Department of Planning and Economic Development include the following:

$120,000 from the Department of Defense and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation to construct recreational facilities and preserve the unpolluted state of Lake Francis, located near Valier and Conrad's chief source of water;

$50,000 from the Department of Defense and the Department of Housing and Urban Development for an areawide study of the impact area to aid communities to accommodate projected population increases;

$38,640 to contract for a Sanitarian in the area;

$350,000 from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration largely for law enforcement equipment training and personnel;

$497,000 for school expansion and operation; and

$1 million to pave FAS-417, the F Bridge Road, south of Shelby.

Still pending are almost $5.0 million in further requests for school aid; and more than $3.8 million for highway construction projects.

Other project requests now being processed for smaller amounts of funds include: an ambulance for the area, additional public health nursing services, employment of two game wardens, a crisis center and a recreation-services project for the Tiber Lake area.

Meyer explained that $14 million has been made available during FY-1971 to Montana and North Dakota communities to meet the impact, and the 15 agency committee has been assisting the communities in formulating and processing their requests since February of this year. For fiscal year 1972, an appropriation of $5.5 million dollars has been authorized by the House of Representatives to continue assistance to Montana and North Dakota communities.

The Department of Planning and Economic Development was praised by Senator Lee Metcalf in a "special report" on ABM Impact on July 20, 1971. The Senator pointed out that it is never easy to locate federal funds in the right agency at the right time and in the case of ABM impact funds, the process is complicated by having to apply first to an agency which will administer the project under one of its already existing programs and then apply further to the Defense Department for funding. "But," said Senator Metcalf, "the State Department of Planning and Economic Development has performed an admirable job in helping local leaders and groups evaluate their needs, formulate requests and file them with the appropriate Federal Agency." We are happy to be of service.

State and Local Assistance

The Department of Planning and Economic Development has launched an almost $400,000 state and local assistance planning program for fiscal year 1971-1972.

Division Assistant Director Charles A. Bentley has announced the completion of negotiations with the Department of Housing and Urban Development for a "block grant" award of $225,400 which has been matched with $122,650 state and local cash and in-kind services.

In addition to these amounts are two other HUD grants of $100,000 to fund the third stage of state executive reorganization, and $30,000 for a municipal employee training program. The Department was instrumental in securing both. The training program is operating under the auspices of the Montana League of Cities and Towns.

State activities covered under the grant include: Federal Fund Application Review, State Comprehensive Plan Formulation, Housing program, Model Ordinances and a Land Use Classification System.

Nine cities will share in State grants for planning. These are: Libby, an impact area; Hardin, Ennis, Kalispell, Bozeman, Sidney, Deer Lodge, Baker, and Hamilton. Bentley set October 1 for the deadline for these cities to sign a contract.

"We are particularly pleased with the potentials for planning in Ennis, Deer Lodge, and Hamilton," said Bentley, who noted the people of these towns are very "enthusiastic" about planning activities.

The Department is also aiding three Indian Reservations with their planning. Bentley said the three—Crow, Blackfeet, and Ft. Belknap—have received a total of $86,400 federal to be matched with $28,800 local funds.

Bentley explained that two of the three, the Crow and Blackfeet, have signed with consultants—Harrison Fagg and Associates of Billings, and Environmental Concern, Spokane, respectively. Ft. Belknap has hired Fred Martin as staff planner.

Two other planning projects which are nearing completion are Bridger and Gallatin Canyon.

The Bridger group has approved its plan and is having it adopted by the county, in preparation for implementation.

Gallatin Canyon citizens have adopted goals to guide the consultant in developing Plan alternatives for their consideration and selection.

The Consultant in both instances has been Murray-McCormick of Sacramento.

Gallatin County is considering establishment of one of the first county-wide planning functions under the new legislation. Resident Planner, Rick Mayfield, is guiding this effort and will soon be able to offer first hand knowledge as to the "ins & outs" of implementing this legislation.

Clearing House For Federal Funds

The State Department of Planning and Economic Development, through an additional grant from HUD, is continuing to emphasize coordination and effectiveness of state and local planning in Montana through Clearinghouse review of applications for federal funds.

Housing and Urban Development has supplied a $14,000 grant to be matched with $7,000 state money to allow the Community Development Division, in conjunction with the Information Division, to pursue the objectives of the clearinghouse and to establish and maintain an automated system on federal, state and local programs.

The objectives, as outlined under the federal circular that established the Clearinghouse are to maximize coordination and efficient use of federal funds by preventing overlap, duplications and conflict among federally-assisted programs or direct federal programs through the review and comment of all interested state and local agencies.

Community Development Director Hal Price, who has ultimate responsibility for Clearinghouse action, said his Division is working with the Department's information Division to design, develop, test, implement and maintain an automated system of abstracting, coding, storing and retrieving Clearinghouse information.

According to Price, this system will be capable of providing ready information for use in Clearinghouse review, and for periodic reporting on federal programs to state and local agencies and their elected officials. Reporting of each program will provide information to include the type, location, cost and status of processing.

5 Year Housing Program

The State Department of Planning and Economic Development's Community Development Division is moving into the 2nd year of a five-year housing program.

Hal Price, Division Director, stated that during February 1971-1972, emphasis will be placed on rural housing programs with continued assistance to Model City and Urban Renewal areas.

Other activities proposed under the $21,000 total state and federally funded program include putting to use the data base, survey techniques and resources developed during the first year of the program.

The program also will concentrate on encouraging actual construction, with the Department's housing staff and its Indian Advisors providing help to both rural and urban minority groups in securing adequate housing.

Along this line, according to Price, there will be a technical assistance program providing low-income and minority organizations with information on various federal and private programs that might help them to purchase new, or rehabilitate existing housing.

Also, the possibility of workshops in management of public and rent-supplement housing for future managers of such projects will be investigated, commented Price.

To increase the depth of the basic data system for housing information, at least one study of an entire county will be conducted, and a study is also anticipated to encompass one multi-county district.

The Department, according to Price, will take all precautions to ensure that any future housing surveys in the state, conducted with public or private funds, will be based on official State criteria and survey techniques to assure uniformity of data.

There will be cooperation from the Department with any agency or activity aimed at promoting reasonable uniform building codes on a statewide basis, and municipalities will be encouraged and aided in developing a housing element in comprehensive plans whenever possible.

Finally, Price said, the Department will begin investigating the need for establishing a State Housing Development Authority for the 1973 session of the Montana Legislature.

EDA PROJECTS

Silver Bow County has marked two economic development milestones in recent weeks and PED Economic Development Division's technical assistance aided in the progress. The two projects are the Butte Industrial Park and the Gregson Resort, both funded by the Economic Development Administration.

Commenting on the recently dedicated Butte Industrial Site, ED Division Director Bill Spilker said, "Their success has been nothing short of phenomenal." He was referring to the ability of the Butte Local Development Corporation to secure location commitments from two national industrial giants—General Electric and Westinghouse.

Both firms will provide service for heavy-duty equipment, and the LDC will construct a $186,000 building to house the operation by GE, which will enter into a lease-purchase agreement with the LDC.

According to Joe Stimson, LDC spokesman, the site will eventually serve 10 buildings and diverse interests.

Concerning PED involvement in putting together the site package, Spilker stated that his Division had reviewed the application for funding by EDA, had written letters of support for the application, had aided in site evaluation, and was involved in early contacts with GE.

Another imaginative aspect of the site development upon which Spilker commented was the ability of those involved to put together the financial package among various federal funding sources, along with aid from local government and industry.

Involved in the funding was EDA, Butte Model Cities (HUD), and Silver Bow County, and the land was donated by the Anaconda Company.

Industrial Site Survey

The PED Economic Development Division is currently compiling two kinds of information to aid the efforts of Montana communities in industrial development. One is a "community audit," and William Spilker, ED Division Director, said that a simplified community audit form has been devised and is being mailed to communities for completion.

"This is a four-page questionnaire," said Spilker, "which provides for a quick review of a community's industrial potential, including information on population, location, utilities, transportation, and other economic factors." The other information being compiled is a list and description of available industrial sites.

Spilker explained that David Brown, a summer intern in the Department under the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) program, is coordinating the gathering of the industrial site data and is compiling a catalog which will list available industrial sites in Montana.

"We will make the industrial information available both to Montana communities and to industries interested in locating in Montana," said Spilker. "This way, industries can make comparisons of the potential between Montana communities. Both the community audit and the industrial site survey are prerequisites in the highly competitive quest for new capital investment and employment."

"In less than 18 months," said Spilker, "they secured the grant, developed the site and have two businesses going. Availability of good industrial land is a key feature of a growing industrial program, and Butte has the key."

Magic Land Development

Everett Darlinton, PED Industrial Engineer, rendered extensive aid to the Magicland Development Corporation, Anaconda, in developing the EDA application which was funded in July by EDA for approximately $2.2 million. Private capital will supply an additional $2.5 million to complement the EDA portions of the project.

The funds will be used to develop the first phase of a tourism-recreation complex at Gregson Hot Springs in Silver Bow County. The project is expected to create more than 375 direct jobs and eventually bring $2.7 million annual income to Silver Bow, Deer Lodge and Powell counties. Gregson is considered to be the keystone project for the development of tourism and recreation as a major industry in southwestern Montana. Darlinton said that he compiled the application but "the program itself was the result of the interest and desire of the people in the tri-county area." He explained that most of the information incorporated in the application was gathered by members of the corporation. In addition, the project received wholehearted support and assistance from Governor Forrest Anderson, Montana's Congressional Delegation, the Inter-County Development Corporation of Southwestern Montana and all other interested local, state, and federal agencies.

INFORMATION

The Department of Planning and Economic Development Information Division will initiate or expand the scope of three new computerized services for state and other agencies, this fall.

Already operative, according to R. Thomas Dundas, Information Division Director, is the Statutory Information Retrieval System (SIRS).

Dundas explained that the Legislative Council purchased SIRS, and requested that the Department of Planning and Economic Development operate the system.

It includes all Montana statutes and is presently being updated to incorporate new laws recently enacted by the 1971 legislature in regular and extraordinary sessions.

Dundas said the services will be available to all agencies, individuals and legislators. A fee schedule, accounting system and revolving fund is presently being established to serve the system.

In September, Dundas said, representatives from the Federal Information Exchange System (FIXS) will be in Montana to aid the Department of Planning and Economic Development personnel in establishing a Federal Aid Control System (FACS) in Montana to act as a computerized source for Federal programs funding information.

Dundas is also preparing the "invitation list" for a meeting of government and private agencies to discuss "county profiles."

The profiles would complement the "Montana Data Book," prepared and published by the Department of Planning and Economic Development Research Division, and would provide county-by-county information on population, labor force, personal income, health, education, and welfare, and others.

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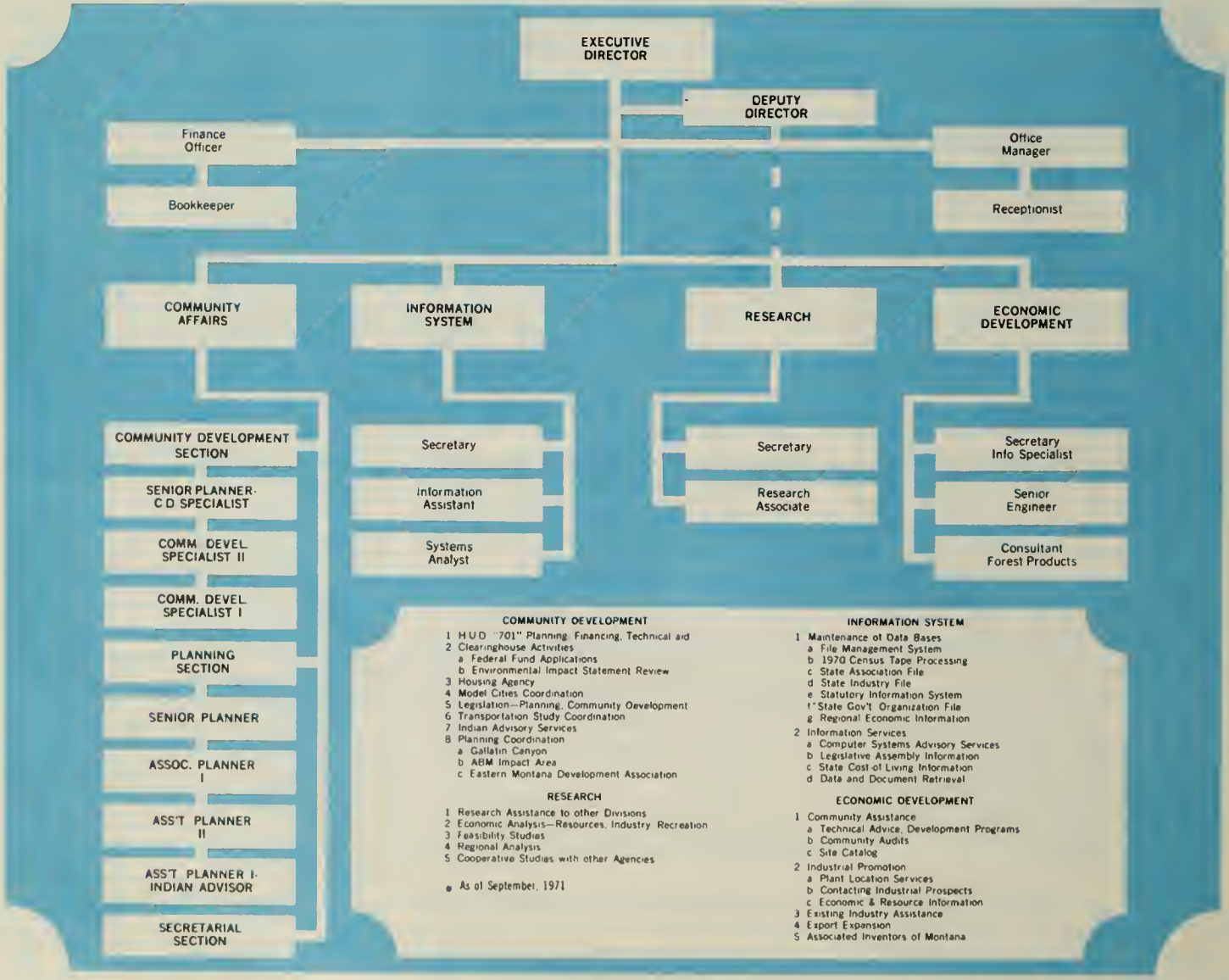
DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS*



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